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IS
RESERVED.

DEATH OF PORTUGUESE CAUSED BY HELLEBORE

So Says the Chemist
to the Board of
Health.

STUFF DRANK WAS NOT WINE

BUT METHYLATED ALCOHOL,
SWEETENED AND TINCT-
URED WITH POISON.

The Poison Found in the Liquor,
the Viscera and the Blood--
the Inquest Goes on
To-Day.

The inquest on Joaquin Silva, one of the Portuguese who died last week, was resumed yesterday at the office of Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth. The jury was impaneled last Thursday and given a chance to view the remains of Joaquin Silva, after which it was dismissed until such a time as the food commissioner, Mr. Shorey, should complete an analysis of the contents of the dead man's stomach. Mr. Shorey was ready yesterday and the inquiry was resumed. The jury consisted of C. J. Hutchins, W. E. Bivens, S. Kube, C. Dickerson, Ed. Paris and R. Dexter.

The inquiry was conducted by Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth. The first witness sworn was the police surgeon, Dr. Emerson, who made the autopsy. Dr. Emerson's story was that no external injuries were found upon the body. The internal examination revealed that the bowels were congested and inflated with gas. The stomach was congested and pretty well empty. The stomach and contents of the bladder and some blood were given to Prof. Shorey for analysis. Dr. Emerson went on to say that the left kidney was a trifle large, congested and fatty. The right kidney was a little smaller and also congested in a different way. The spleen was under normal in size and very wrinkled. The lungs were congested on both sides and looked like the beginning stage of inflammation as in pneumonia. The heart was opened and found empty of blood.

The membranes of the brain were found injected, the serous fluid being a little in excess at the cortex. There were also signs of chronic meningitis thickening. A portion of the spinal cord was found degenerated. The affected portion was the size of a hazelnut.

"I consider the cause of death was an irritant poison that affected not only the organs directly that received it, but also exerted a powerful influence upon the nervous system and the brain," Deputy Chillingworth asked. "Would hellebore produce death in this way?" "Yes, it would," replied the witness. Dr. Emerson went on to say that hellebore is the root of a plant found in Europe. It is very rare in America and is unknown in these islands. It is well known as an insect destroyer. Death from this poison would be painful and spasmodic. It would be preceded by vomiting, purging and partial blindness. Hellebore acts on the motor nerve system and weakens the limbs.

Dr. George Herbert was the next witness. He told over again the story of Silva's actions at the insane hospital where he was an attendant. He was at his post of duty last Wednesday, the day after he was drinking at the Punch-bowl wake. The story of Joaquin's actions was told in The Republican of last Friday. Dr. Herbert's testimony relating to the autopsy was practically the same as that of Dr. Emerson, but he went more into explanations of the effects of wood alcohol.

Dr. McDonald practically confirms the previous medical testimony. He was present at the autopsy, making the post-mortem of the contents of the skull, and moved the brain. No sign of violence was found and it is his judgment that death resulted from some irritant poison. Stomach and kidneys were diseased. He never heard of hellebore being used to fortify wines. He said it was used as a poison and might be used as a poison against insects.

Dr. Pratt, the executive officer of the board of health, was the next witness. He further corroborated the other doctors as to the post-mortem on Joe Silva. His testimony was, however, more confined to the death of Joaquin Silva, the old man, in which case he made a serious blunder in not holding a post-mortem examination. He had concluded, from what he could learn from the history of the case that the man had died from heart disease, from a chronic kidney trouble or from syphilis. He had been assured that Silva, the elder, had not drunk anything but tea for some time before his death and had shown no signs of poisoning. He and Dr. Garvin later discussed the matter and came to the conclusion that Silva had died of syphilis. Then the certificate was filled out.

Dr. E. C. Shorey, the chemist to the board of health, was next called and proved the only important witness of the day. He explained how the viscera of the body of Joe Silva came into his possession and also the poison which killed him and the two others who attended his wake. He said he had examined the liquor first. He found it to contain methylated spirits, containing 48 per cent of alcohol and water, considerable sugar and some vegetable infusion. The latter he found to be the alkaloids of white hellebore, a vegetable that grows in Europe and a variety of which is found in this country. In the far east it is used to sprinkle currant bushes and other small fruit plants to kill bugs and other insects. He found four distinct active principles of the root of the plant. He exhibited on a slide the quantity he had found in four ounces of the liquor. He found eight grains in eight ounces.

In the small quantity of liquid found in the stomach he found a very light trace. In the five ounces of blood taken from the thoracic cavity he got a reaction very distinctly. The urine showed it also, indicating that considerable quantities of the liquor had been consumed. Had never heard of it being used to for-

tify wines. It is only used as a medicine. It is not soluble in water, but alcohol will dissolve out the alkaloids. He said he would call it an irritant poison. The mixture submitted to him tasted to him like sweetened alcohol. Unless sweetened he said it would have a very disagreeable taste. He said it attracted ants and flies and killed them, notably the latter. He described how it would be applied to plants. The alcohol would evaporate and the sugar and hellebore would stay on the branches. As the methylated spirits are sold here there would have been between 4 and 5 per cent wood alcohol in the Silva mixture. He said there was no specific antidote for the poison. It creates an uncontrollable desire for vomiting. The quantity that would kill, he said, would depend on the man, what he had been used to drink and on the quality and character of the wood alcohol. The latter is itself a poison. Dr. Shorey said there was a great misapprehension as to fust oil. It was very scarce and very intoxicating. A man who might get drunk on five glasses of liquor might do so on half a glass of fust oil. He said it was undoubtedly poisonous, but didn't believe there was a record of death from fust oil.

Aug. Meyer, the milk inspector, Mr. Crowell of the police office and A. de Souza Canavarro, the consul for Portugal, followed each other on the stand, identifying the bottles containing the poisonous liquid and tracing them unbrokenly to Chemist Shorey's office. The consul said old man Silva was a peculiar man, fond of flowers, grapes and vines and given to boasting that he was a king pin at doctoring wine. He had also heard of Silva's cached wealth and had hunted for it about the premises, but without result.

Manuel Costa was a friend of Madeiros and left his work to see him once more before he died, but "didn't catch him alive." His testimony was rambling, tedious and unimportant.

J. A. F. Silva, the Portuguese policeman, made an interesting witness. He said he was at old man Silva's when he died to keep out the crowd. When Dr. Pratt came everybody went in, he said. We drank out of that bottle, he said, pointing to it on the table. Silva had been in the habit of hiding his money and they searched for it. In doing so they found four or five of those bottles in the kitchen under a paper. He mentioned quite a number of persons as being present and partaking of the booze. He drank one glass of the poisonous liquid, a glass of gin and then another glass of the poison, but it gave him no inconvenience. They emptied three of those bottles, each holding about six pints.

The fact that the policemen's stomach resisted the poison and the energetic manner in which he told the story kept the jury and officers in a good frame of mind. Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth conducts the inquiry and does so in a systematic and intelligent manner.

PERSONALS.

Miss R. W. Parish, who arrived in the Zealandia, will take a position on the teaching force at St. Andrew's Priory.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Wilder S. S. Co. will be held on Monday, November 26th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

A prudent man looks ahead, provides for a rainy day, and also for his family in event of death. A twenty-payment life policy in the Pacific Mutual Insurance Company is what every married or single man should have. For further particulars ask Clinton J. Hutchins, 409 Fort Street.

Mrs. Frederick W. Hankey will be obliged to return to the mainland to see her mother, whose illness has taken a turn for the worse. As soon as her mother is convalescent she will return to her husband and home in Honolulu, which she finds most attractive. She goes on the Zealandia today.

Phone 35, Territory Stables, King St. Mrs. Eleanor W. Davies, who has occupied a responsible position as stenographer and cashier to Kinney, Ballou & McCannan for over a year past, has booked to sail on the Zealandia for the coast. She will be absent a month visiting relatives. Upon her return Mrs. Davies will accept a position with Bruce Waring & Co.

St. Andrew's fair in the cathedral grounds on Saturday, December 1, 1900. News has just been received of the death of Napier New Zealand, on October 15 of Mrs. Von Tempky. She was well known in the islands, where she resided many years. Her husband was the late Major Von Tempky, who was killed in New Zealand in the wars with the Maoris. She was the mother of Louis and Randall Von Tempky of these islands and of Mrs. Kettle of New Zealand.

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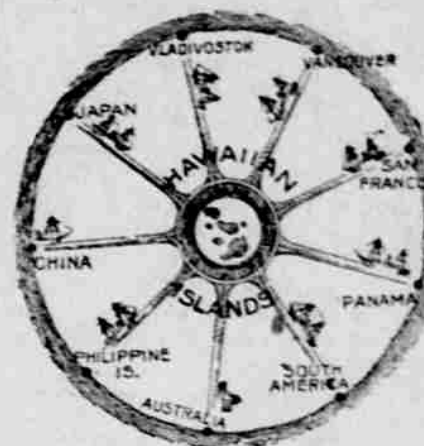
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It has all the merchant tailor's distinctiveness; is, in fact, tailor-made; but is much less expensive than the so-called custom-made apparel.

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